

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 101415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5297

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV,DM, OCAM

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OCAM

1. DAHOMEAN REACTION TO CHAD AND CAMEROONIAN DECISIONS TO LEAVE OCAM HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS AND EQUIVOCAL. FORMIN ALLADAYE, IN PRESS INTERVIEW JULY 4, SAID DAHOMEAN VIEWS ON OCAM NOT CHANGED BY DEPARTURE OF TWO MEMBERS. MRGD IS NOW IN PROCESS OF RECONSIDERING HER POSITION IN OCAM AS WELL AS IN OTHER INTER-AFRICAN AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE BASED ON HER OWN INTERESTS. DAHOMEY INTENDS ATTEND FORTHCOMING EXTRAORDINARY OCAM CONFERENCE IN DAKAR, "IF IT IS HELD." HE ASSERTED THAT "WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING OCAM FOR THE SIMPLE PLEASURE OF LEAVING." ALLADAYE CONCLUDED INTERVIEW WITH
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STATEMENT THAT MRGD SEES NO REASON WHY OCAM WOULD NOT BE

AS VALID AS ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION AS LONG AS IT UPHOLDS
THE "DIGNITY AND UNITY" OF AFRICA.

2. DAHO-EXPRESS OF JULY 7 CARRIED EDITORIAL FROM NEW
NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY FURTHER CLARIFYING DAHOMEAN ATTITUDE
TOWARDS OCAM. IT POINTED TO "PROFOUND MALAISE" OCAM
SUFFERING AS EVIDENCE BY ATTENDANCE AT LAST SUMMIT
MEETING OF "HARDLY A QUARTER" OF MEMBER HEADS OF STATE.
TENDING DISMISS CHAD'S ANNOUNCED REASONS FOR LEAVING OCAM,
EDITORIAL INTERPRETED PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S DECISION AS BASED
ON "INCAPACITY OF OCAM TO GO AHEAD WITH CHANGES REQUIRED
BY EVOLVING SITUATION IN AFRICA. THE CREATION OR MAINTENANCE
OF AN ORGANIZATION BASED ON AN EXTRA-AFRICAN LANGUAGE HAS
BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION IN AFRICA.
THIS IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF THE INEFFECTUALLY OF OCAM."
DAHOMAY, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED, HAS ALREADY FULFILLED
HER RESPONSIBILITIES BY PROPOSING TO HER OCAM PARTNERS
"CONCRETE MEASURES" DESIGNED TO ADAPT THE ORGANIZATION
TO PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS NOW UP TO THE OTHER
MEMBERS TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF ADAPTING OCAM.
OTHERWISE, THE CAMEROONIAN AND CHADIAN EXAMPLES MAY
SPREAD. IT IS NOW TIME FOR OCAM, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, TO
"GET INTO TUNE WITH AN AFRICA WHICH WISHES TO BE REALLY
INDEPENDENT."

3. COMMENT: DAHOMEY CONTINUES TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN
FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WHILE STILL NOT READY TO TAKE
PRECIPITOUS ACTION TO CUT ITSELF OFF FROM AN
ORGANIZATION WHICH STILL MAY BENEFIT DAHOMEY, THE MRGD
DOES INSIST ON CHANGE IN OCAM. PRESUMABLY, THIS CHANGE
WOULD BE AWAY FROM AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCOPHONE CLUB TOWARDS
AN ORGANIZATION INCLUDING ANGLOPHONE MEMBERS. HER REFUSAL
TO JOIN CEAO IS CLEAR WARNING THAT SHE IS NOT LIKELY TO
REMAIN INDEFINITELY IN ANY EXCLUSIVELY FRANCOPHONE
ORGANIZATION WHICH EXCLUDES NIGERIA AND GHANA. HOWEVER,
IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE A ROLE FOR AN EXPANDED,
NON-LINGUISTICALLY BASED OCAM. IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE
REDUNDANT FOR AFRICA ALREADY HAS ONE SUCH ORGANIZATION
IN THE OAU.

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